

**CHAPTER 5. EXTRA-AGENCY ACTIVITIES****5.01 EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY CONTRACT**

a. The varied needs for specific development programs may require extramural or contractual support. All Contracts and consulting arrangements with non-VA personnel must follow Federal and VA Acquisition Regulations. This applies whether the agreement is for a prime contractor or is essentially a subcontract to support an intramural program (See also pt. 1, par. 5.02.)

b. All noncompetitively negotiated research contracts require a justification and approval signed by designated officials and processed in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation 6.302-3 and VA implementing and supplementing VA Acquisition Regulation.

c. The Rehab R&D program does not award grants. Projects may be funded through contracts initiated by a contractor, VA Central Office Rehab R&D Service, or personnel in the health care facility. Each proposal must be reviewed and approved as all other Rehab R&D projects. When the initiative for the contract arises within the VA, careful attention must be given to compliance with restrictions on sole-source contracts; use of a RFP (Request for Proposals) is advisable where feasible. The Rehab R&D Service annually issues an RFP as a general program announcement in the *Commerce Business Daily*. The Supply Service should be consulted for guidance as soon as it becomes likely that a contract will be used.

**5.02 INTERAGENCY COOPERATION**

a. The VA cooperates closely with Federal, State and local governmental and nongovernmental organizations by jointly funding projects in Rehab R&D. Rehab R&D merit reviewed approved projects have been jointly funded by such agencies as the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, State universities and veterans' service organizations.

b. The Rehab R&D Service advocates the use of an IPA to secure the services of personnel and specialized expertise for short periods where recruitment is not likely to occur. For example, the services of faculty and staff at state supported schools could be obtained through an IPA. Many not-for-profit R&D facilities and private educational facilities may qualify for an IPA. For further information, refer to the Federal Personnel Manual, chapter 334, or 5 U.S.C. 334.